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The President's Daily Brief

19 December 1969

25

~~*Top Secret*~~

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

19 December 1969

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Vietnam is having trouble recruiting qualified men for its army. *(Page 1)*

Turkish students are protesting the Sixth Fleet visit to Izmir. *(Page 2)*

Egyptian troops are in Libya. *(Page 3)*

New Soviet fighter beginning operational training. *(Page 4)* 50X1

Romania [redacted] Bolivia [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] *(Page 5)* 50X1

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NORTH VIETNAM

During the past year, Hanoi has put special emphasis on programs to ensure the army of an adequate supply of qualified and well-motivated manpower. An authoritative North Vietnamese editorial on 15 December indicates that Hanoi once again is trying to get out the recruits. In calling for education of the people in "love of country" and the "great requirement of the battlefield," the editorial suggests that there has been some slippage in programs to round up military manpower for duty in South Vietnam.

An even more difficult problem for Hanoi, however, is to overcome growing realization in the North of the dangers and hardships which Communist forces in South Vietnam must suffer. The return of thousands of wounded from southern battlefields during the past year and a half, in particular, probably has had a profound impact. Accounts of the real situation in South Vietnam undoubtedly have contributed to the growing problem of desertion and draft dodging in North Vietnam during the past year.

The evidence to date does not suggest that Hanoi is having difficulty fulfilling its draft quotas--the regime's instruments of control almost certainly are capable of providing the raw manpower needed by the army, if necessary through reliance on stronger coercive measures. Nonetheless, it is clear that North Vietnam, whose well-disciplined and indoctrinated troops have provided the Communists with one of their strongest assets in the past, is facing new problems of morale and motivation among those segments of the population it must rely on most to carry on the war in the South.

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TURKEY

Anti-US demonstrations by Turkish students appear almost certain during the three-day visit, beginning today, by units of the Sixth Fleet to the port of Izmir. Student organizations from as far away as Ankara and Istanbul may send representatives to participate [redacted] 50X1
The students are free to do so because they are involved in a nationwide boycott of classes over academic grievances. Izmir officials believe the demonstrations will be nonviolent, but they have warned that individual extremists may try to provoke incidents with sailors on shore leave.

Both Izmir and Istanbul were the scenes of anti-US demonstrations early this year during similar visits by US naval vessels. If substantial numbers of out-of-town students come to Izmir, Turkish Army units might have to be called to help the local police.

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LIBYA

Embassy Tripoli has received additional reports confirming that a movement of Egyptian troops into Libya is under way. These reports also suggest that they are bringing antiaircraft guns with them. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] there are rumors in 50X1
Tripoli that an indefinite number of Egyptian warships are momentarily expected in Libyan waters, allegedly to participate in joint Egyptian-Libyan naval exercises.

These troops are probably being brought into Libya to shore up the regime of President Qaddafi. It is possible that plans for their movement into Libya were made during an unpublicized visit Qaddafi made to Cairo earlier this month.

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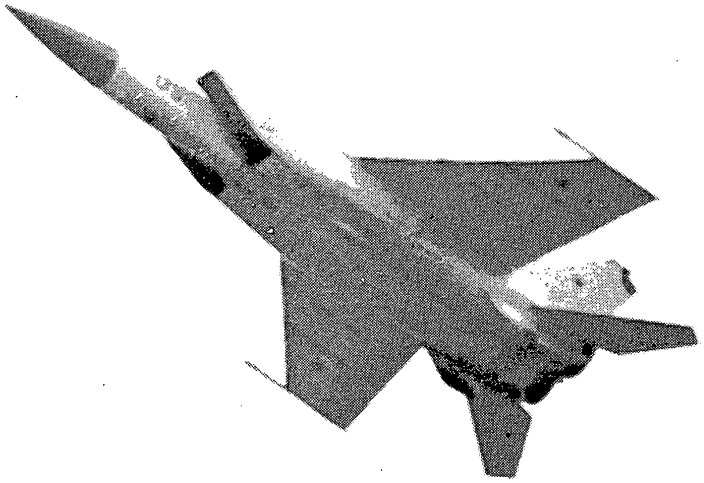
Soviet FOXBAT Enters Operational Training



Length	65 feet
Span	44 feet
Gross weight	65,000 pounds
Combat radius	420-800 nm*
Maximum speed	1700 knots
Combat altitude ceiling	75,000 feet
Armament	2-4 air-to-air missiles

*Range varies with armament, speed, and altitude. External fuel tanks may add 160 to 300 more miles.

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USSR

Foxbat fighter aircraft--the most expensive and one of the largest interceptors thus far developed by the Soviets--have been conducting [redacted] practice [redacted] on a daily basis [redacted] Computed ground speeds of 1,500 knots and altitudes of 70,000 feet have been noted on some flights. 50X1

The flight activity [redacted] *indicates the Foxbat has completed interceptor weapons testing and has begun operational training. The number of flights and the relatively brief period between them indicates that operational testing and training is being conducted rather than research and development. Series production of the Foxbat probably began early in 1969. Operational deployment of the Foxbat is expected to begin by mid-1970.* 50X1

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BOLIVIA-ROMANIA

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NOTES

[redacted] 50X1

USSR: The latest satellite photography shows the start of a sixth group of SS-13 silos at the Yoshkar-Ola ICBM complex about 400 miles east of Moscow. This is the second SS-13 group begun this year and maintains the deployment rate of two groups per year for this missile system. Completion of the six groups at Yoshkar-Ola--the sole SS-13 deployment complex--will bring the total number of launchers to 60. Two of the groups are now operational and the other four should be operational by the end of 1971.

USSR: [redacted] 50X1 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

(continued)

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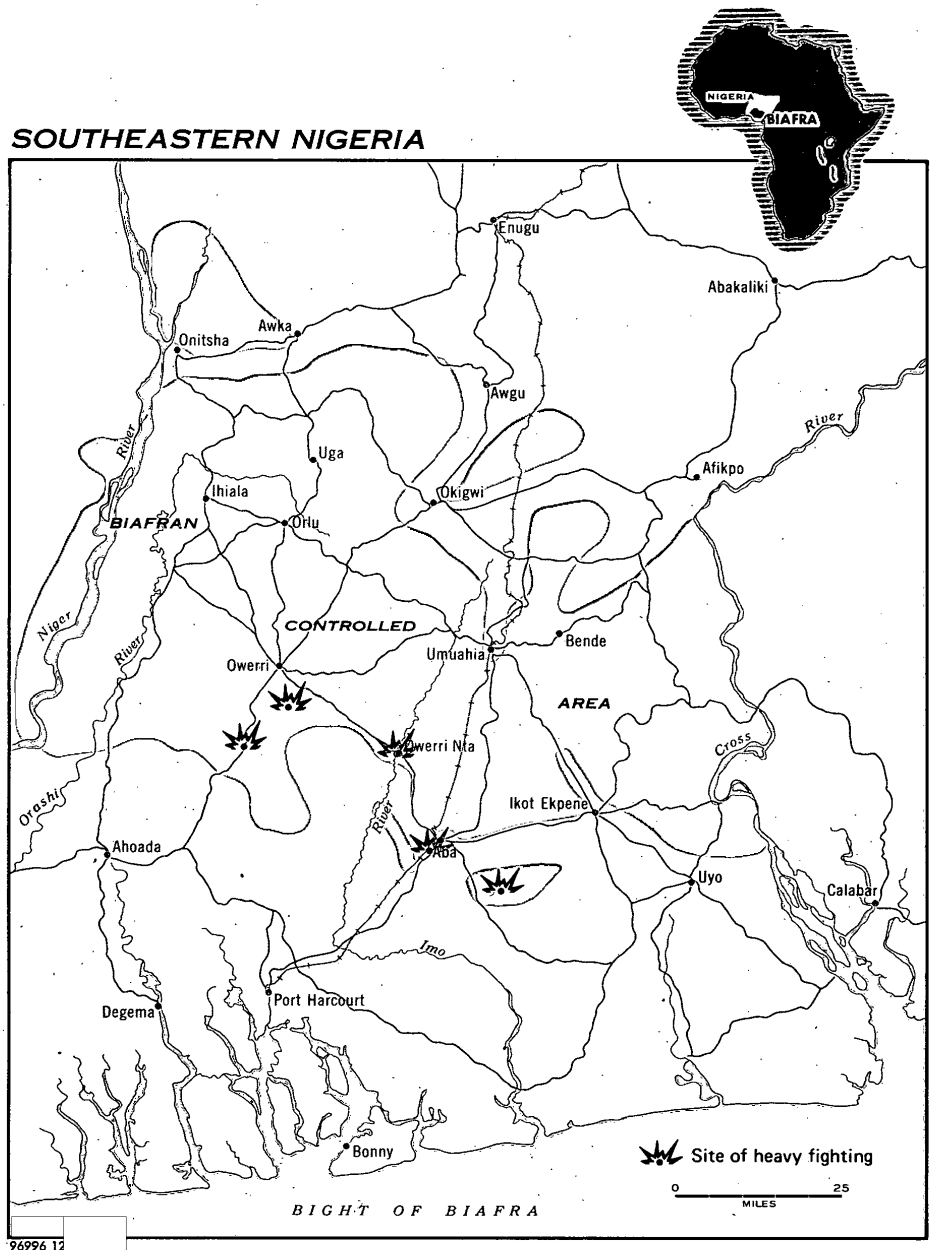
SOUTHEASTERN NIGERIA



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South China Sea: [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Nigeria: The over-all military situation remains essentially unchanged, although Federal troops have made further inroads on Biafra's southern front and are keeping up the pressure on the secessionists. Fighting in the north remains at a low level [redacted] 50X1 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

Meanwhile, Emperor Haile Selassie's latest attempt to get the two sides together has broken down over procedural problems. A Biafran delegation left Addis Ababa after the Emperor publicly linked the negotiations to the Organization of African Unity, which has consistently backed federal Nigeria. Despite the Biafrans' refusal to negotiate under OAU auspices--a position consistent with their past policy--their willingness to go to Addis Ababa should give them a propaganda victory. The Federals failed even to send a delegation to Addis Ababa.

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